REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 27-30, 32, 39-40 remain in the application. Claims 1-2, 27, 32, 39-40 have been amended. Claims 3-26, 31, 33-38, 41-42 have been cancelled, and claims 43-83 have been added.

Claims 1, 27 and 39 have been amended only to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention in accordance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2. The term "sublevel domain" in certain of the amended claims denotes any domain that may fall under a TLD such as a ccTLD. For example, in the domain name "cajunfood.com," "cajunfood is a subdomain to the COM TLD; in "cajunfood.co.uk", "cajunfood.co" is a subdomain to the UK ccTLD; etc.

The term "registering entities" in certain of the amended claims includes an entity that can receive a registration template for ccTLD. For example, in one embodiment, the registering function for a ccTLD can take place at the registry for the ccTLD. In another embodiment, a registering entity can be a second registrar that receives the templates from a first registrar, e.g., at which a user performs a search for an available subdomain and to whom the user pays for a registration.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for having insufficient antecedent basis for "the proposed SLD" limitation in the claim. This claim has been cancelled, rendering this objection moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-12, 14, 16-25, 27-39 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,560,634 to Broadhurst (hereinafter, "Broadhurst").

Broadhurst discloses linking the user to link to an order form for a specific ccTLD. "If desired, a user may request to register a domain name as indicated by item 606 by selecting item 610. That is, item 610 links a user to an HTML order form, as shown in FIG. 6c for the specified domain." Broadhurst col. 6, lines 51-55. Under Broadhurst, a user would be required to manually complete a different order form for each ccTLD in which he wanted to register the domain name. This can be problematic for registering a domain in multiple ccTLDs because the forms for different ccTLDs may differ in format and in the process used for registration. See, e.g., Applicants' Specification, page 3, lines 6-11.

Broadhurst does not disclose a system that can automatically register a selected domain name in different ccTLDs using domain name registration information entered only once by the user. It does not disclose automatically generating an appropriate registration template for registering a domain name in each of several ccTLDs, populating each template with user information without requiring the user to manually completed the template, wherein each template is properly formatted according to the requirements of its corresponding ccTLD. On the contrary, Broadhurst discloses manually completing each different form for each different TLD, by the user. "The order form dynamically creates an order request for: a particular domain name in the specified domain. The user supplies information, such as credit card and contact information, and once all the information is entered, the user may submit the order form to the appropriate registering service by email or by the well known hypertext transport protocol in

order to begin the registration process." Broadhurst Col. 6, lines 55-62). Hence, claims 1 and 39 are allowable over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claims 2, 43-44 depend from allowable claim 1, claim 40 depends from allowable claim 39, hence claims 2, 40 and 43-44 are also allowable.

As to claim 27, Broadhurst does not disclose assigning each subsearch to a search thread in a persistent search thread pool. Rather, each time searches are requested, Broadhurst spawns the correct number of "search sub-processes" needed to search the number of requested domains.

"Query engine 222 then invokes search engine 226 to spawn a number of search sub-processes (step 414). In this step, search engine 226 calculates the number of search sub-processes to spawn based on the number of domains to query submitted by client computer 106 so that each search sub-process contains at most 11 domains to search. Essentially, search engine 226 forks the queries into multiple sub-processes to perform the domain name searches in parallel for optimized performance. Each spawned search sub-process is given a subset of domains to query, thus query server 104 may perform multiple queries at once. For example, if client browser 106 selects 50 domains to query, search engine 226 may spawn 5 search sub-processes, so that each spawned search sub-process queries 10 DNS servers. Further, depending on the load of query server 104, search engine 226 may change the number of search sub-processes to spawn." Broadhurst col. 5, lines 48-64.

Broadhurst does not disclose maintaining a persistent search thread pool comprising search threads to which one or more subsearches may be assigned, without having to spawn a new sub-process on-demand for each new domain search. In other words, Broadhurst does not disclose reusing search objects, but rather discloses creating them anew, on-the-fly, for each search, which can be less efficient. Hence, claim 27 is patentable over Broadhurst.

Claims 28-30, 32 and 45-47 depend from allowable claim 27, hence claims 28-30, 32 and 45-47 are also allowable.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Pending claims 2 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broadhurst in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/ 0065903A1 to Fellman ("Fellman"). Claim 2 depends from patentable claim 1, and so is itself patentable. Claim 40 depends from patentable claim 39, and so is itself patentable.

Claims 13, 26 and 42 were cancelled, therefore the objections to these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are rendered moot.

Change of Attorney's Docket Number

Applicant respectfully requests that the PTO records for the above-identified application be amended to reflect a change in Applicant's attorney's docket number from "OLD 12307/100140" to "NEW 12835/100140".
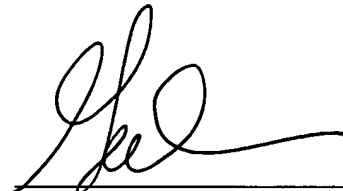
CONCLUSION

In view of the above submitted amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are allowable over the cited prior art. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: June 10, 2004

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